

move to 327, 984, but I didn't hear any motion, I don't think that the Chair heard a motion that would by-pass 997. Was this....

SENATOR SIMPSON: I'm objecting to taking up the one amendment to 997.

PRESIDENT: He is only explaining it, he is not going to vote on it, to the Chair's understanding.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Why explain it then, we don't have anything before us then.

PRESIDENT: That is a good question. Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, I'll withdraw the amendment as soon as I explain it. I just want this to...

PRESIDENT: Senator Simpson he just only wants to offer it then he will withdraw it. OK?

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, members of the legislature I just handed out on your desk, sheets which represent the percentage increases by selected annual salary levelies for regular state employees which would happen if this amendment were accepted. It is on one step increase in the pay plan plus \$240. Now this has come about as a result of a research study which has been made by our fiscal analysist and by the department of personnel. I a...a...our fiscal analysist telephoned the Governor's offices in every state surrounding Nebraska and to find out what kind of a recommendation that they are going to be giving to their legislatures relative to pay increases. The regular employees the Governors will be recommending approximately 9.7% increase. For faculty members of colleges approximately 6.0%. Then the director of personnel made a study as to what private business is going to do in the state of Nebraska for employees and it comes out to about 6.1% increase. So on the basis of all of this information, Senator Stahmer and I saw the head of the department of personnel, we have seen the Governor and we have come out with this particular proposal and I have laid it on your desk and the average increase has been recommended by the director of our personnel department which is approximately equal to the cost of living increases during the past calander year for the lower income people it is 11% increase because it is assumed, and the assumption is correct, that the lower income people have had a greater increase in cost of living than the higher income people. Why? For several reasons, that is one. The kinds of products which the lower income people buy have increased farther than the kinds of products that the higher income people buy, in terems of percentage of of the total income. Another thing the lower income people have to spend practically all of their salary whereas the higher income people can save more. As a consequence, lower income people have a higher increase in the cost of living and therefore this proposal has been made for the purpose of putting this in line. Now, I have asked our fiscal analysists to try and work out a cost of living index and they thought that they could have it on hand by this afternoon, for lower income people compared to higher income people and the persons in the middle bracket. I wanted to explain this to you because this is a very important subject and we have got to make a decision and the thing that has happened is that back in September when the Governor is